

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Discussion Item:

2007 KBE Legislative Agenda - Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK)

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 157.350
702 KAR 3:270

Action Question:

Should the KBE approve staff recommendations for the 2007 KBE Legislative Agenda as it relates to SEEK?

History/Background:

Existing Policy. Since 1990, numerous reviews of the SEEK formula have demonstrated the formula has performed as designed, narrowing the difference between the highest property wealth districts and districts with the lowest property wealth. However, in the past few years several technical issues have been raised by a few districts with their concerns supported by their legislative delegation. In an effort to identify all issues, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) staff visited with superintendents and finance officers in various regional and statewide settings to seek their input. Those meetings resulted in the identification of additional issues. All issues were bundled into a Request for Proposal seeking expertise in school finance to review the identified issues and make recommendations. Subsequently, a contract was awarded to Augenblick, Palaich and Associates, Inc. (APA). The resulting work was forwarded to you previously.

The questions/issues raised by superintendents and finance officers and addressed in the APA report are found in the attached chart.

Prior to delving into the issues on the attached chart, staff will do a brief review of SEEK to form a basis for the discussion of the specific issues related to possible legislative changes.

Staff recommendation(s) and Rationale(s):

Staff recommendations and rationale are also in the attached chart.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

Staff visited with each of the education cooperatives and attended some statewide meetings to discuss the work plan for the RFP. Concerns expressed during these meetings are addressed in the resulting report.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

Sufficient resources are essential to schools being able to meet the needs of students and provide a mechanism to get all children to proficiency by 2014.

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